Scheme for SC/ST Farmers

1339. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing any special schemes for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the status of those schemes in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) is not implementing any special schemes for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers in the country. The DAC is primarily responsible for increasing production and productivity of agricultural output through implementation of various agriculture development schemes. The schemes are production oriented and area specific in nature which therefore benefit farmers of all categories including farmers of SC/ST communities. In view of the above, there is little scope for formulating schemes/programmes particularly focused on specific communities. However, wherever possible, the State Governments/ Implementing Agencies are advised in the Administrative Approvals of Schemes/Programmes to provide allocation/funds for Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for Scheduled Tribes as per the Government Guidelines on the subject.

Assistance to Women Cooperatives in Gujarat

1340. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether grants are being released to Gujarat for assistance to women cooperatives in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the number of cooperatives benefited during the said period in the State, district-wise; and

(d) the details as to how many of them were milk cooperatives and how many were other cooperatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This Department has released an amount of Rs. 3,52,000 (3,20,000 as loan and Rs. 32,000 as grant) to the Women Cooperative Societies of Gujarat, in the year 1997-98. No grant has been released for the last three years.

(c) Two Women Cooperative Societies from Ahmedabad district and two from Banskantha district of Gujarat were provided financial assistance during the said period.

(d) Out of these four Women Cooperative Societies, three were engaged in credit activities and one in consumer activities.

New Techniques for Animal Husbandry and Dairying

1341. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made to develop new techniques in respect of development and expansion in the field of animal husbandry and dairy industry;

(b) the steps taken to provide information about these techniques to the concerned persons and institutions and to encourage them to apply the same; and

(c) the efforts being made to prevent the constant decline in the number of various animals relating to dairy industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The thrust of the Government policy in the animal husbandry & dairy sector is on improving the productivity of animals through scientific management and upgradation of genetic resources of livestock, controlling of animal diseases, increasing availability of nutritious feed & fodder and establishment of dairy processing and marketing infrastructure for livestock products. The Government has been implementing various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes for developing and extending new techniques for the development of animal husbandry and dairy sectors.

(c) A number of schemes viz. " Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases", "National Project on Rinderpest Eradication" (NPRE) and 'Directorate of Animal Health' are being implemented to provide diagnostic and other health care facilities to milch animals against number of diseases.